

# 2325

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

\_\_\_\_\_, Superintendent.

State: *Maryland*

## DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Topographical* Sheet No. *2325*

LOCALITY:

*Magabhy River and Vicinity  
Chesapeake Bay.*

*1898*

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*O. B. French, Assistant*



desc. report  
AN-21-9 000036

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

Washington, D. C.,

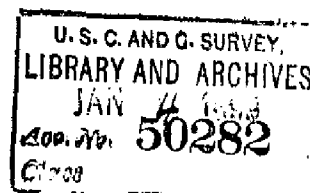
*Library and Archives.*

December 8th., 1898.

Dr. Henry S. Pritchett,

Superintendent U.S.C. & G. Survey,

Washington, D.C.



Sir:-

The following is a descriptive report to accompany topographic sheet No. 2325, recently executed in connection with the resurvey of Chesapeake Bay.

The territory represented on this sheet is a strip of land from one to two miles in width immediately bordering the shores of the Magothy River and the shore of Chesapeake Bay to the mouth of the Severn River, including all creeks and streams contained in this region. The west shore of Kent Island and the interior of the island on the north end as far south as Kent Landing, are also represented on this sheet. On the north this sheet joins topographic sheet No. 2286 hence does not show the part of the Magothy River represented on that sheet.

The general character of the country shown is very rolling excepting about three miles along the bay shore and on Kent Island. There are numerous creeks and small streams flowing into the river and bay. Tide water extends to the heads of all the so-called creeks, and they are navigable almost to their heads for light draft ships, although vessels larger than the small freighting schooners of that region, rarely if ever, go up them.

Along the shores of the river and bay the water shoals slowly but in the creeks the shores are usually quite bold excepting on some of the points where the sand has accumulated to some extent. The bay shore is mostly low and partly bordered by a narrow strip of marsh. The river and creek shores are mostly bordered by low cliffs, some being eroded and others covered <sup>with</sup> brush and small trees.

The soil is quite varied, that toward the bay being mostly clay while that around the upper part of the river is soft sand of a silex character. The roads are all poor. Those near the upper part of the river are very sandy and those farther along toward the bay are hilly and very muddy in wet weather. Between St. Margarets and the bay the country is very low and level. The soil there is mostly of a clay formation and the roads are very good in dry weather but very poor during a rainy season. The grades in the hilly section are generally pretty steep, very little cutting having been done to better the natural slope of the ground.

The means of communication is mostly by land although water is used greatly for conveying produce by those who live near the shores.

Most of the creek shores are lined with trees and brush and most of the steepest hillsides are still uncleared. On the north side of the Magothy there is more uncleared land than cleared, but the south side is mostly tilled, only the poorest, or wet and swampy places, being uncleared. In the forests deciduous trees predominate although pine, and occasionally cedar, trees are very common. Whenever the land has remained uncultivated for any

length of time it is usually covered with a pine thicket so dense it is often very difficult to force a way through it.

The principal products of the land are the cereals, hay ,  
 potatoes, melons and fruits. The <sup>latter</sup> are mostly peaches, strawberries  
 and tomatoes.

There are no towns or villages, health or pleasure resorts, neither manufacturing establishments, in the region shown on this sheet. Only one bridge is represented on the sheet; that is wooden and located near the head of the Magothy River. The small streams in the gullies are sometimes crossed by culverts usually of wood. They are all rather weak and not <sup>a</sup> safe for very heavy loads.

There are very few fences shown on this sheet; most of those shown being old rail fences with trees and brush growing very luxuriantly nearly their whole length.

Very respectfully submitted,

*Owen B. French*

Assistant C. & G. Survey.